

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, from the April 23, 1996, regular meeting, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 6:00 p.m., May 1, 1996.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Vice Mayor Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilwoman Linda Kochendarfer; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman W. D. Tharp.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and stated the purpose of the meeting as a work session on the proposed Fiscal Year 1996-97 budget.

Assistant City Manager Barry Thompson stated that there are no funds included for a consultant study in the General Fund under City Council.

After discussion, Council instructed Mr. Thompson to leave this item as is in the proposed budget.

After discussion, it was the concurrence of Council that the City Manager schedule a joint meeting of the Solid Waste Committees of Council and the Bedford County Board of Supervisors to discuss the concept of the City and County possibly consolidating landfill services.

Mr. Thompson indicated that no funds are included in the proposed budget for the City's share of costs for renovations to the Bedford County Court House. The Assistant City Manager stated that the County has not completed final plans for this project and explained his estimated projections for the costs to the City for this project in Fiscal Year 1996-97.

Discussion ensued.

The Mayor suggested that \$45,000 be included in the proposed budget for this item.

The Assistant City Manager stated that there are no funds included in the proposed budget for any type of upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City Manager stated that a presentation is to be made to Council during an executive session, at which time the Department of Environmental Quality's recommendations and the staff's recommendations will be discussed.

The City Manager indicated that Council had received copies of corrected page 53 (Department Manning Schedule) of the proposed budget.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding additional information on the old grammar school (yellow stucco building).

Mr. Jay Scudder, Director of Planning & Economic Development, presented information on gymnasiums in the area. Mr. Scudder reviewed what work would possibly have to be done in order to utilize the present gymnasium and estimated costs.

Council discussed the establishment of a steering committee. Councilman Tharp volunteered to serve on such a committee.

Council concurred in the following: to establish a steering committee. The committee would consist of two members of Council and two members of the Bedford City School Board. The Mayor indicated that he would like to get a recommendation from the City School Board on parental involvement on the committee such as PTA members from the Middle School. Also to be included on the committee would be one or two teachers and the principal from Bedford Middle School, and Recreation Director Fran Hart.

The Mayor stated that he felt the facility at the Middle School would need to be multi-purpose, a gymnasium facility that can be utilized effectively by the community during non-school hours: would need to provide for the classroom space that is necessary to house the middle school concept; would be an opportunity for the City to work with the private sector in providing in the ground floor area 3,000 - 4,000 square feet for a provision of a youth center; and would meet a variety of needs in the community.

The City Manager is to help Council identify in writing what the concept is and the Mayor will work to organize this committee.

Ms. Hart suggested that Council also appoint one or two members of the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the direction for the Committee to go in. Mayor Shelton stated his concept would involve the existing building, and he felt the committee should be free to look at other options. Councilwoman Flood suggested that a utilization analysis be done.

Councilwoman Grahame suggested that citizens on the Westview Avenue and Longwood Avenue area also serve on that committee.

Council proceeded to hold a work session on the proposed budget with members of Council and the staff discussing various items in the budget.

Councilman Rice made a motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate. The motion died for lack of a second.

The City Manager is to ask Bedford County Administrator Rolfe and the Sheriff to report on the increase for the Sheriff's Department.

The staff will provide to Council a list of properties for condemnation and a legal flow chart describing the process.

The Mayor asked that the Sheriff explain the increase in budget item "shared CIP-Sheriff Relocation."

Councilwoman Grahame asked for a copy of the contract of the Superintendent of Schools. The City Manager was directed to request a copy of the contract through the City School Board.

Mayor Shelton suggested that a minimal fee (\$5.00 - \$10.00) be charged in the Recreation Department for City youth sports activities. The Mayor asked for input on his suggestion from the Recreation Director and the Recreation Advisory Committee to be provided at the next budget work session.

The Mayor stated that a YMCA Board member commented to him that when the YMCA was in the development phase, there was a specific commitment the City made at that time that is greater than what is being provided. The City Manager is to check documentation regarding what, if any, commitment the City made to the YMCA.

Councilman Rice asked for a report regarding the use of the YMCA by citizens of the City.

The City Manager stated that an average of 1.4 million dollars has been transferred each year for the past ten years from the Electric Fund to the General Fund which is a transfer in lieu of taxes and directly impacts the low tax rate in the City. This year's budget proposes the transfer of approximately 1.7 million dollars.

The Assistant City Manager stated that Council should be congratulated for the foresight to start wheeling power through PSI, because the City's purchased power is being reduced and revenues are basically holding plus whatever growth is occurring.

Councilwoman Grahame stated that the City Manager should be congratulated for informing Council of the possibility of wheeling power through PSI.

Councilman Rice stated that Council should inform the public about the savings occurring at the Snowden Hydroelectric Plant because of cost avoidance during peak periods. Mr. Thompson stated that in April, the figure on the avoided costs was around \$90,000.

Discussion ensued regarding landscaping on Independence Boulevard and shielding the landfill. Vice Mayor Brookshier asked that graffiti be cleaned off of the underpass on Independence Boulevard.

The Mayor suggested that the City utilize the Community Work Experience Program, which is part of the Welfare Reform Act, and have the people affiliated with that to paint the old 1907 wall near the Bedford Avenue underpass.

The City Manager stated that will be taken care of.

The Mayor indicated that Council needs to make a decision as to whether to exercise the option it holds on the Robinson House.

The City Manager asked if it was Council's desire for him to speak with the Bedford Main Street Board of Directors about some sort of restructuring of the Main Street Program.

Councilwoman Grahame stated that if Council chooses that route, she would like to see the Executive Director position funded by the City. The City Manager stated that it is part of the program that the Executive Director position must be funded.

The City Manager will move forward on speaking with the Main Street Board.

Councilman Rice moved that Council adjourn into executive session pursuant to the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, Section 2.1-344(a)(3), real estate, for discussion of potential purchase of industrial property. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Grahame, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Vice Mayor Brookshier aye

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Grahame aye

Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye

Councilman Rice aye

Councilman Tharp aye

Mayor Shelton aye

Council adjourned into executive session at 8:25 p.m. Non-council members attending were: City Manager Gross, City Attorney Berry, Director of Planning and Community Development Jay Scudder, and Clerk of the Council Hatcher.

Council reconvened into open session at 8:40 p.m.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Bedford hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

Councilman Rice moved that the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tharp, voted upon and carried unanimously by the following roll call vote:

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Grahame aye

Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye

Councilman Rice aye

Councilman Tharp aye

Vice Mayor Brookshier aye

Mayor Shelton aye

Council discussed a request for two change orders to the Wharton building which were received by the Director of Planning and Community Development.

Mr. Scudder will meet with Mr. David Cole, President of the Bedford Historical Society, regarding the change orders and report back to Council.

Councilman Tharp suggested that future requests for change orders be brought before Council and not approved at the staff level.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.